

LIBRARY

NEWTON ABBOT

URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SURVEYOR

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1938

Newton Abbot
Urban District Council.
1938.

STAFF.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

*†Dr. W. H. SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. J. MAITLAND STEELE, M.D., M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector :

†C. E. PETHICK, M.S.I.A.

Junior Clerk :

E. A. HOLMES

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

Surveyor :

Mr. C. D. WHITE

Assistant Surveyor :

Mr. J. A. HUTCHINSON

*Part time.

†Salary contributed to by Exchequer grants.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29909429>

Newton Abbot Urban District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1938

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA AND POPULATION: The District comprises the parishes of Wolborough, Highweek, and Milber, with a total acreage of 4,132.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population (mid-year) is 14,570 (a decrease of 90).

The number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) is 4,267, an increase of 54, and gives an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per house.

The population is partly industrial (wool mill), railway, repairing shops, clay mining) and partly residential. There is a large and important market, and the town is generally a shopping centre for the surrounding agricultural district.

Rateable Value: June, 1938, £130,508. A penny rate produces £508 17s. 7d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1938

Live Births	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	93	72	165	} = Rate of 11.7 per 1,000 of population.
Illegitimate	3	3	6	

An increase of one on the previous year.

Average birth rate for the last 10 years: 11.9.

England and Wales birth rate (1938): 15.1.

Still Births

Legitimate	3	3	7 } = Rate of 38.7 per 1,000
Illegitimate	—	—	— } births (live and still).
Deaths	92	100	192 = Rate of 13.1 per 1,000. (crude)

*Corrected Death Rate : 9.9.

England and Wales Death Rate: 11.6.

Maternal Mortality (childbirth)—I=rate of 5 per 1,000 births.

Infantile Mortality (under 1 year).

Legitimate	7	3	10	} = Rate of 60 per 1,000 legitimate live births.
Illegitimate	—	—	—	

Death rate of all Infants per 1,000 live births: 58.

Ditto England and Wales : 53.

Deaths from Measles, 1; Whooping Cough, 0; Diarrhoea (under two years), 1; Cancer, 25.

*Correcting factor .76.

Causes of Death in 1938, as supplied by the Registrar-General	M.	F.
All Causes	92	100
Measles	0	1
Influenza	1	2
Tuberculosis of lungs	4	2
Cancer	10	15
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	7	3
Heart disease	24	28
Other circulatory disease	8	12
Bronchitis	8	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	1
Other respiratory disease	1	1
Peptic ulcer	0	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	0
Appendicitis	1	0
Other liver diseases	1	0
Other digestive diseases	2	3
Ac. and chr. nephritis	2	3
Other puerperal diseases	0	1
Premature birth, etc.	3	2
Senility	5	8
Suicide	0	1
Other violence	3	1
Other defined diseases	0	2
Ill-defined or N.K.	0	2

Health Services of the Town.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. The Newton Abbot Joint Isolation Hospital serves the combined area of Newton Abbot Urban and Rural Districts and is supported by local rates. Patients are also taken on payment from Totnes Urban and Rural, Ashburton Urban, and Buckfastleigh Urban Districts. It contains 34 beds. During the year 56 patients were admitted, of whom 11 were from the Newton Urban District.

NEWTON ABBOT HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY. This is a well equipped and well maintained hospital of 56 beds, supported by voluntary contributions. The 60th Annual Report shows that its financial position is thoroughly sound, even after paying for the new Nurses' Home and the new X-ray Diagnostic Set.

During the year 535 patients were admitted to the General Wards, 31 to the Semi-Private, and 103 to the Private Wards. In addition there were upwards of 9,000 attendances in the Out-Patients' and other departments.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION. Formerly known as the Union House or Workhouse, serves a large area of South Devon, including Newton Abbot Urban and Rural Districts, Torquay, Paignton, Teignmouth, Dawlish, Ashburton, and Buckfastleigh. It contains an Infirmary block of 170 beds. Though previously administered by a Board of Guardians, it has now come under the control of the County Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The District is adequately and efficiently served in this respect by the local Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, which maintains and staffs three motor ambulances. They are available by day or night (Tel. 112), and distance is no object.

In addition an Ambulance for cases of Infectious Disease is attached to the Isolation Hospital (Tel. 70).

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Bacteriological Laboratory of the Devon County Council at Exeter examines free of charge all clinical material such as throat swabs, sputum, blood, etc., and also samples of water from public water supplies, and milk.

SCHOOL CLINIC. This is administered by the Medical Department of the County Council. Sessions are held every Monday at the Town Hall. The School Doctor and School Nurse are in attendance, and it maintains a service of great value to the Elementary School children of the town. During the year there were 1,246 attendances, an average attendance of 29 per session.

HEALTH VISITING of children under school age is carried out by Miss Parsons, the County School Nurse, who is also in charge of the Welfare Centre and School Clinic. During the year 148 new babies were visited, 555 visits were paid to Infants up to one year old, and 1,585 visits to children between the ages of one and five.

In addition, 48 visits were paid to boarded-out children under Infant Life Protection (Children and Young Persons Act, 1932).

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is provided by the Devon Association for Cripples Aid. With a central Hospital at Exeter, there are out-patient clinics in various parts of the County, the nearest being Torquay. Its work is continually increasing and of the great possible benefit to all in need of it.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council. Including the Matrons of the two registered Nursing Homes, there are five practising Midwives in the District, two of whom are District Nurses.

The Infant Welfare Centre is administered by the County Council, aided by a local committee composed of certain members of the Urban Council with others. Held at the Town Hall, placed at its disposal by the Urban Council, it is open from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays throughout the year except at holiday times, and during the session is under the direction of Miss Parsons, the County Health Visitor. Weighing of the babies is done by the two District Nurses and their services in this respect are voluntary and very much appreciated. Tea is provided for the waiting mothers during the session, and their comfort and entertainment is ably supervised by Mrs. S. G. Holmes, the Honorary Secretary.

A successful year's work can again be recorded. 45 sessions were held and at the end of the year there were on

the books 174 Mothers, 103 Infants, and 111 Toddlers. The total number of attendances was: Mothers 1,341, Infants 806, and Toddlers 855, giving an average per session of: Mothers 29, Infants 17, Toddlers 19.

This is a noteworthy increase on the figures of previous years. Nine cases were referred for treatment, two to the Orthopaedic Clinic, and seven to private doctors.

Owing to the great increase in Urban Council work, and the consequent need of more office accommodation, the Centre has been obliged to seek a new home, and after the middle of April will be established at No. 64, East Street, now the property of the County Council. These commodious and convenient premises will no doubt be much appreciated by the present patrons of the Centre, and a considerable increase in the attendance may be reasonably expected.

The Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY is that of Torquay, and is excellent both in quantity and quality. I am indebted to Dr. Simpson, M.O.H., Torquay, for the following analytical report :—

Samples are taken each month and chemical and bacteriological analyses carried out: the results vary very little, and a typical analysis is as follows :

REPORT

CHEMICAL : (Results expressed as parts per 100,000).

Hardness, as calcium carbonate. Temporary 1.8 ;

Permanent 3.4 ; total	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.2
Chlorides, as Chlorine	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.5
Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.0002
Ammonia, albuminoid, as nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.0044
Nitrates, as nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.04
Nitrates, as nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Oxygen (absorbed 3 hours at 37°C)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.072

Metals: Lead, copper, zinc—absent.

Remarks: Sample clear and free from sediment.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total Organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37°C), 3 per c.c.

Total Organisms growing on agar (3 days at 20°C), 7 per c.c.

B. Coli present in —, absent in 100 c.c.

Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.=Nil.

CONCLUSIONS.

This sample is of a satisfactory degree of organic and bacterial purity.

SEWERAGE. The Milber high-level sewer was extended 1,000 yards to serve the new building site in that locality. In other respects the system worked satisfactorily throughout the year, but the ever-increasing accumulation of sludge at the outfall works made it necessary to consider the necessity of acquiring more land for the purpose of sludge disposal.

With the exception of a few earth closets on the outskirts of the town, and outside the range of the sewers, the whole District is on the water carriage system of sewage disposal. There have been three conversions from earth to water.

REFUSE REMOVAL. This was by horsed vehicles twice weekly. At the end of the year trials were begun with motor lorries with the object of comparing the efficiency and cost of the two methods. At the time of writing no conclusion had been arrived at.

REFUSE DISPOSAL. In the last report it was stated that having failed to acquire any suitable land for a new dump, it remained to make the best use of the present one. This has certainly been done and with a very large amount of success. The reorganization of the whole process of tipping and covering has resulted in the extinction of the apparently inextinguishable fires, and effected an economy of space which should prolong the use of the site as a dump for many years.

SCHOOLS. There are eight Public Elementary Schools in the town with an average attendance of about 1,500 children. All are provided with sufficient sanitary accommodation and generally speaking are well kept.

One School (R.C.) was closed for two weeks owing to the occurrence of a case or two of Diphtheria, one being the Head Teacher.

The general condition of health of the school children is satisfactory, and there is no evidence that adult unemployment has had any effect on their nutrition or physique.

CAMPING SITES. Apart from a few small colonies of van dwellers of the gipsy type who are kept under observation, there are no camping sites.

SWIMMING BATH. This, owing to the cold and wet summer, was very little used, and for a very short period. The Paterson Sterilising process functioned satisfactorily, and below is a copy of the Analyst's report.

Report

B. Coli present in — ml. Absent in 100 ml.
 Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c. = nil.
 Colonies growing on agar (2 days at 37°C) = 30 per ml.
 Colonies growing on agar (3 days at 22°C) = 1,500 per ml.

Streptococci absent in 50 c.c.
B. Welchii absent in 10 c.c.

REMARKS

This sample is satisfactory. The count at 22°C is somewhat high, but in absence of B. Coli and streptococci this is probably of no significance. The organisms are of harmless types.

(Signed) T. LAWSON MCEWAN.

County Bacteriologist.

Date 13.5.38.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The number of animals dealt with at the Public Slaughterhouse again shows an increase, with a parallel rise in the congestion and inconvenience caused thereby. For several years the necessity for an enlargement and extension of the present premises has been obvious, and plans for the new building were completed and approved some time ago. Delay in starting the work has been caused by failure to come to terms on the price of the extra land required, and at the time of writing negotiations for this purpose were still proceeding.

The food shops of the town, including butchers, bakers, milk shops, fried fish shops, etc., were visited from time to time, and generally speaking are well kept. An occasional verbal reminder *re* whitewashing or floor cleansing is usually all that is necessary.

THE MILK SUPPLY. Judging from the results of the tests for cleanliness (44 per cent. of failures), but little improvement can be reported under this heading. From direct observation those producers one would expect to pass have passed and those one would expect to fail have usually done so. At the same time it must be said for the farmer that he is having a very difficult time. Farm hands, either good or bad, are hard to get and harder to keep, and the short-handed producer in order to get the job done has little or no time for the amount of care which makes the difference between passing and failing. On the other hand, of the 19 bulk samples tested for tuberculosis, none was positive, so that it seems fair to conclude though sore throats may be as common as ever, the much greater evil caused by tuberculous milk should be growing less.

Housing.

Under this heading not much activity was apparent during the year, and no Council houses were built. This is not to say that the housing needs of the district are satisfied—far from it, and the carrying out of the proposed scheme for 50 new Council houses on the Forde House site will almost certainly have to be undertaken within the next few years. For the moment, perhaps, aeroplanes must come before houses, though judging from the colossal building now in course of erection in Wain Lane Meadow, new schools must come before anything. To those who know the needs of the lowest paid worker and the workless, a good long row of Council houses would be a much more welcome sight.

Under a Demolition Order, four old cottages in East Street were done away with, and thus the last thatched house in Newton has disappeared. The Surveyor's department has supplied the following list of plans passed :—

Detached houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Lavatories	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Workshops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Additions to houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Bungalows	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Garages	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Alterations to Shop Fronts	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Lay-out Plans	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Sheds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Roads and Sewers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Alterations to Bank Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Alterations to Institution	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Alterations to Children's Homes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Electricity Sub-station	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pairs of semi-detached Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Additions to Golf-house	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Shop Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Schools	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Mason's Shed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Car Lift Cover	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cloak Room	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Electricity Testing Station	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Licensed Premises Alteration	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Building Lines	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Again we can record a satisfactory year under this heading. In the first quarter there was a certain amount of measles in the schools, but since then zymotic disease has been practically absent.

Of notifiable disease (other than tuberculosis) there has been only two cases.

Disease	Cases	Sent to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	5	5	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Dysentery	1	0	0
Erysipelas	1	1	0
Puerperal pyrexia	1	0	0

SCARLET FEVER. Ages 17, 15, 12, 11, 7. The only point of interest is that the 12-year-old case developed the disease six weeks after her brother of 17 returned from hospital.

DIPHTHERIA. Ages 60 and 5. Both from the R.C. School. One was the head teacher. The other teachers had throat swabs taken, and one was found to be a "carrier." Under the circumstances the school was closed for 14 days. No more cases occurred.

DYSENTERY. (Some), age 3.

ERYSIPELAS. Age 56.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths.—Twelve cases were notified during the year all of which were lung cases. Three have since died. At the end of the year there were about 157 tuberculous persons living in the district, of whom 114 were lung cases. This is a decrease of 18 on the previous year. There were 6 deaths from the disease. They had all been notified before death. All new lung cases are visited in order that the housing conditions of the patient may be inspected and also to advise other inmates of the house of the infectious nature of the disease. A visit is also paid after death in connection with the cleansing and disinfection of the premises.

II

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-								
1-								
5-	1				1			
15-	1							
25-	2	2			2	1		
35-	2	2			1			
45-		1			1			
55-	1				1			
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	7	5			5	1		

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Newton Abbot Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,—

I beg to submit herewith the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

DRAINAGE

During the year the drainage systems of all new houses have been tested before filling in the ground and a final test of the drainage and inspection of sanitary fittings made on completion of the building.

The drainage work and sanitary fittings have also been tested and supervised in cases of existing buildings where alterations and/or additions have been made.

A total of 277 visits in connection with drainage have been made and 190 tests applied.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

As from 1st April, 1938, the responsibility for the work of Refuse Collection and Disposal was transferred to my department.

With respect to refuse collection, the horse drawn waggons in use at present are not capable of tipping to discharge their loads and are in need of considerable attention.

I formed the opinion that collection by this method was uneconomical, and this opinion was confirmed by trials with an ordinary end-tipping lorry. As a result of these trials the collection rounds were reorganized and a lorry hired for collection in the outlying parts of the district, which arrangement showed an appreciable saving of costs.

Working demonstrations were arranged with motor refuse collection vehicles, and owing to the restricted nature

of the back roads from which collection is made, it was found that side loading of vehicles was unsatisfactory. Demonstrations with rear loading moving floor refuse collectors showed considerable advantages, and at the time of writing this report a scheme has been submitted for the purchase of two rear loading moving floor collectors on short wheel-base forward control chassis.

The scheme submitted also included the reconstruction of Teign-road depot to provide garage accommodation, and the estimated all-in cost of the scheme showed a saving in costs over the present method.

With respect to Refuse Disposal, in consequence of complaints received as to the nuisance from smouldering refuse every effort was made to get the fire under control, and I am pleased to be able to report that this has been accomplished.

At present the refuse is being covered with material excavated from another part of the tip and drawn away by horse and cart, but this method has proved unsatisfactory, and provision has been made in the scheme for using an end-tipping lorry for this work and general purpose use in the department.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Periodical inspections have been made under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, with respect to the ventilation, temperature, and sanitary conveniences, and under the Public Health Act, 1936, with respect to closet accommodation in existing buildings, a total of 71 visits having been made.

CAMPING SITES

There are no sites in the Urban District which can be classed as camping sites in the holiday camp class, but five licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of the use of sites for moveable dwellings.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

During the year six Council houses and one other house were found to be infested with bed bugs and subsequently disinfested.

The methods used were spraying with various insecticides and block fumigants.

Disinfestation, in the case of Council houses, is carried out by my department, in the case of other houses every advice and assistance is given but the work is not carried out by Council staff.

Efforts are made in all cases to point out likely sources of infestation, and to invite the co-operation of tenants in preventing any further infestation.

HOUSING

Housing work during the year has suffered as a result of the pressure of other duties, and has been confined mainly to the remedy of defects found as a result of complaints.

The following table in the form required by the Ministry of Health, shows in tabular form the work carried out during the year.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	100
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	172
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	22
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	46
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	35
---	----

3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i>	
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
4. <i>Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding :—</i>	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	34
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	34
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	254
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3

(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	29
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding	Nil
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Periodical visits are paid to foods shops and places where food is prepared, and it is pleasing to report that the general conditions are satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—The following are particulars from the Registers kept in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Orders.

Retailers in the District	21
Retailers from outside the District	17
Retailers with Cowsheds in the district	5
Wholesale Producers in the District	13

Two producers in the district are licensed to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk namely :—

Mr. Stanbury, Hele Park Farm.
Seale-Hayne College.

Five Producers in the District are licensed to produce Accredited Milk namely :—

Mr. Blackmore, Oakmead Farm.
Mr. Codd, Mead Farm.
Mr. Dolbear, King's Mews.
Mr. Lambshead, Castle Dyke Farm.
Mr. Newcombe, Greenhill Farm.

Eight retailers have been licensed by the Council to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk and one retailer has been licensed by the Council to bottle Accredited Milk.

One retailer has been granted a supplementary licence to retail Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk.

During the year three retailers have been removed from and three retailers added to the Register. One producer-retailer has been removed from the Register and one producer added.

Periodical visits have been paid to the cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops in the district, as follows :—72 visits to cowsheds and dairies and 75 visits to milkshops.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.—During the year 124 samples of milk have been forwarded to the County laboratories for cleanliness test, of which 61 samples passed, an improvement on the previous year but still far from satisfactory. It is an unpleasant fact that milk is a food which lags far behind other foods in the conditions under which it is produced and handled, a fact of which milk producers in general have little cause for complacency.

The following table gives an analysis of the sampling results :—

Month	No. of samples taken				No. passed
January				11	6
February				12	10
March				12	4
April				12	5
May				15	8
June				9	4
July				11	4
August				4	3
September				9	3
October				11	4
November				10	4
December				8	6
				124	61

Of 19 samples of milk submitted for tubercle test all proved negative.

As regards producers in the Urban District, of the 124 samples submitted 82 were produced in the district of which 46 passed. or approximately 56 per cent.

The results since the inception of the scheme in 1932 are as follows:—

1932	.....	39.4 p.c.	of total samples passed
1933	.....	40.7 p.c.	„ „ „ „
1934	.....	50.7 p.c.	„ „ „ „
1935	.....	64.3 p.c.	„ „ „ „
1936	.....	63.0 p.c.	„ „ „ „
1937	.....	33.7 p.c.	„ „ „ „
1938	.....	49.2 p.c.	„ „ „ „

Meat and Other Foods.—Shops, market stalls, and other places where food is sold or prepared for sale are visited periodically, and in this connection 819 visits were made during the year.

Public Abattoir.—Daily visits, including Sundays and Bank Holidays, have been made to the Abattoir, and in this connection 546 inspections have been made.

A total of 7,430 animals were slaughtered as compared with 5,504 during 1937, an increase of approximately 35 per cent. on the previous year's figures.

Particulars of the number of animals killed are as follows:—

	1938	1937	1936
Bullocks	 1,265	1,029	885
Sheep.....	 2,824	2,328	2,679
Calves	 491	249	234
Pigs	 2,850	1,898	1,277
	7,430	5,504	5,075

It will be appreciated from these figures the increase of work involved and the increased difficulties under which killing has been carried out.

The progress of your Council's proposals with respect to the alterations and additions at the abattoir have proceeded very slowly. At the time of writing last year's report the Livestock Commission had the proposals under consideration, and at the time of writing this report the proposals are under consideration by the Minister of Health. Despite this, however, I am in hopes that the work will be put in hand during 1939.

The following table, in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives particulars of carcasses inspected :—

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	785	480	491	2,824	2,850
Number inspected	785	480	491	2,824	3,102*
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned	2	2	3	1	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	72	130	5	147	72
Percentage of the num- ber inspected af- fected with disease other than tuber- culosis	9.4	27.5	1.6	5.2	2.4
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned	2	7	—	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	81	92	—	—	279
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.6	20.6	—	—	9.1

* This figure includes pigs killed outside the district for sale in butcher's shops in the town.

Unsound Food.—The following is the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed during the year.

Cattle (excluding Cows) carcasses	.....	.....	.....	4
Cow carcasses	.....	.....	.....	9
Calf carcasses	.....	.....	.....	3
Sheep carcasses	.....	.....	.....	1
Pig carcasses	.....	.....	.....	7
Forequarters of beef	.....	.....	.....	5
Hindquarters of beef	.....	.....	.....	5
Bullocks' heads	.....	.....	.....	56
Pigs' heads	.....	.....	.....	244
Diseased organs	.....	.....	.....	746
Beef	.....	.....	.....	989 lbs.
Veal	.....	.....	.....	—
Mutton	.....	.....	.....	47 lbs.
Pork	.....	.....	.....	314 lbs.
Tinned meat	.....	.....	.....	45 lbs.
Chicken	.....	.....	.....	1
Fish	.....	.....	.....	144 lbs.

The weight of unsound food destroyed during the year was approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

BAKEHOUSES

Periodical visits were paid to the 13 bakehouses in the district and the general condition was satisfactory, 36 visits being made.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Administration is carried out by the Police in this district, to whom I am indebted for the following information :—

Food sampled	Number taken	Result
New milk	20	Genuine
Margarine	1	„
Pepper	1	„
Fresh butter	1	„
Pure lard	1	„

FACTORIES ACTS

During the year the Factories Act of 1937 came into force and the work of compiling a new register was commenced. The following is a summary of the work carried out.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—				
Factories with mechanical power	.....	.....	.....	30
Factories without mechanical power	.....	.....	.....	12
Other premises under the Act (including works of building construction but not including out-workers premises)	.....	.....	.....	2
Defects found :—				
Want of cleanliness	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Overcrowding	.....	.....	.....	„
Unreasonable temperature	.....	.....	.....	„
Inadequate ventilation	.....	.....	.....	„
Ineffective drainage of floors	.....	.....	.....	„
Sanitary conveniences	} insufficient } unsuitable or defective } not separate for sexes			„
Other offences	.....	.....	.....	„

—————o—————

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the members of the Council for the consideration and support given to me and also to express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by my colleagues throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. PETHICK, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

for 1938.

made at

SEALE-HAYNE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON

Situation.

The Station is situate at 375.15 feet above Mean Sea Level ; Latitude 50 degrees, 33 minutes ; Longitude 3 degrees, 38 minutes.

It can be inspected at any time by appointment with the Observer.

Instruments.

The figures in the tables were obtained from observations made by use of the following instruments :—

For Maximum and Minimum Temperatures.

Thermometers exposed in a Stevenson Screen at 4ft. 6ins. above ground level.

For Rainfall.

A 5-inch diameter rain-gauge with rim 12 inches above ground level at 375.15 feet above Mean Sea Level.

For Sunshine.

A Campbell-Stokes Sunshine Recorder.

For Wind.

A Vane on the North Block of the College at 44 feet above ground level in conjunction with the Beaufort Scale for use on land.

All instruments are approved and periodically inspected by the Meteorological Office.

H. McCLELLAND (Observer).

February 24th, 1939.

TABLE I.
Sunshine in Hours for 1938.

Month	Total Hours	Daily Mean	Sunless Days	Sunniest Day with number of hours
January	55.8	1.8	10	27th, with 8.1 hours
February	70.2	2.5	9	19th and 20th, with 8.7 hours
March	172.0	5.5	0	14th, ,, 9.9 ,,
April	226.5	7.5	1	18th, ,, 12.4 ,,
May	150.1	4.8	7	11th, ,, 12.9 ,,
June	221.7	7.4	0	21st ,, 14.4 ,,
July	157.3	5.1	2	21st, ,, 12.5 ,,
August	165.8	5.3	3	7th, ,, 12.1 ,,
September	144.9	4.8	0	2nd, ,, 11.3 ,,
October	107.5	3.5	5	14th, ,, 8.6 ,,
November	61.9	2.1	9	22nd, ,, 7.0 ,,
December	53.1	1.7	14	20th, ,, 5.9 ,,

NOTE.—There is no official definition of “a sunny day”.

TABLE II.
Rainfall in Inches for 1938.

Month				Total fall	No. of Rain Days	Greatest fall in 24 hours on date
January	.....	.....	.....	5.59	21	0.97 inch on the 14th.
February	.....	.....	.....	1.30	10	0.56 „ „ 25th.
March	.....	.....	.....	0.09	4	0.03 „ „ 24th. and 25th.
April	.....	.....	.....	0.08	3	0.06 „ „ 23rd.
May.....	.....	.....	.....	2.72	19	0.48 „ „ 26th.
June .....	.....	.....	.....	1.21	13	0.39 „ „ 1st.
July .....	.....	.....	.....	3.27	13	1.42 „ „ 6th.
August	.....	.....	.....	7.84	14	4.35 „ „ 3rd.
September	.....	.....	.....	1.63	12	0.36 „ „ 19th.
October	.....	.....	.....	4.19	20	0.63 „ „ 3rd.
November	.....	.....	.....	6.48	22	1.30 „ „ 25th.
December	.....	.....	.....	4.38	21	0.86 „ „ 11th.

NOTE.—A “ Rain Day ” is one on which 0.01 inch or more rain is recorded. “ Rain ” includes all measurable precipitation, whether in the form of rain, hail, snow, fog, or dew.

TABLE III.

Temperatures in Degrees Fahr. for 1938.

Month	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Mean of Max. and Min.	Highest Max. on date	Lowest Min. on date	Gr'nd Frosts
January	 49.4	38.6	44.0	55 on 24th	30 on 1st	10
February	 46.5	40.1	43.3	55 ,, 6th and 25th	28 ,, 15th	13
March	 56.3	41.3	48.8	66 ,, 23rd	31 ,, 4th	12
April	 56.9	38.1	47.5	65 ,, 13th	29 ,, 18th	12
May.....	 58.3	43.6	50.9	71 ,, 22nd	36 ,, 6th	0
June	 65.7	49.3	57.5	75 ,, 14th	42 ,, 2nd & 11th	0
July	 65.9	51.0	58.4	75 ,, 20th	42 ,, 1st	0
August	 68.8	52.6	60.7	78 ,, 2nd and 3rd	42 ,, 31st	0
September	 65.1	48.5	56.8	76 ,, 12th	39 ,, 16th	0
October	 58.0	46.6	52.3	65 ,, 16th	40 ,, 27th and 31st	0
November	54.7	44.5	49.6	63 ,, 5th	33 ,, 27th	7
December	 46.4	36.9	41.5	55 ,, 4th	19 ,, 20th	15

NOTE :—(1) Air Temperature in Shade at $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet above ground level.

(2) "Ground Frost" is recorded when the temperature in the open at ground level falls to 30.4 degrees Fahr. or below.

TABLE IV.

Wind at 9 Hours Observation

Month	FORCE					From DIRECTION				Calm
	0-5	6	8 or 7 more			N.- N.E.	E.- S.E.	S.- S.W.	W.- N.W.	
January	30	1	0	0		4	0	15	12	2
February	27	1	0	0		13	2	10	3	0
March	31	0	0	0		7	3	13	7	1
April	30	0	0	0		19	2	1	8	0
May	31	0	0	0		7	8	10	6	0
June	30	0	0	0		4	3	19	4	0
July	31	0	0	0		4	2	19	6	0
August	31	0	0	0		11	5	9	6	0
September	30	0	0	0		10	2	13	5	0
October	30	1	0	0		3	1	21	6	0
November	28	1	1	0		1	5	18	6	0
December	31	0	0	0		7	3	17	4	0
TOTAL						90	36	165	73	1

NOTE :—(1) Forces 0—5 — Calm to Fresh Breeze (0 to 21 miles per hour).

Force 6 — Strong Breeze (27 miles per hour).

Force 7 — Moderate Gale (35 miles per hour).

Force 8 — Fresh Gale (42 miles per hour).

- (2) During the year the wind reached Force 8 at hours other than the 9 hours observation the following number of days : January 2, June 2, October 1, November 1.

SUMMARY FOR YEAR 1938

Temperature (Fahr.)

Mean Maximum	.....	.....	.....	.....	57.7 degrees
Mean Minimum	.....	.....	.....	.....	44.2 „
Mean Temperature (Mean of Max. and Min. means)	.....	.....	.....	.....	50.9 „
Warmest month, August, with mean temperature of	.....	.....	.....	.....	58.4 „
Coldest month, December, with mean temperature of	.....	.....	.....	.....	41.5 „
Warmest Day (Highest Max.), August 2nd and 3rd, with	.....	.....	.....	.....	78 „
Coldest Day (Lowest Max.), December 19th and 20th, with	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 „
Warmest Night (Highest Min.), August 2nd, with	.....	.....	.....	.....	62 „
Coldest Night (Lowest Min.), December 20th, with	.....	.....	.....	.....	19 „
Number of Ground Frosts	.....	.....	.....	.....	69 frosts

Rainfall (Inches)

Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	38.78 inches
Number of Rain Days	.....	.....	.....	.....	172 days
Wettest Month August, with	.....	.....	.....	.....	7.84 inches
Driest Month, April, with	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.08 „
Wettest Day, August 3rd, with	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.35 „

(Actually the wettest **Civil Day**, midnight to midnight, was August 4th, the day on which Newton Abbot was flooded. The rainfall, 4.35 inches fell between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m., British Summer Time (4 hours to 9 hours G.M.T.), and is entered in Records for the 24 hour period, 9 hours to 9 hours, beginning the day before, August 3rd. From 9 hours (10 a.m.) August 4th, a further 0.52 inches fell, and this is officially entered to August 4th. Therefore, the actual rainfall during the great storm on the Civil Day of August 4th was 4.87 inches, all of which fell in ten hours from 5 a.m., making this the wettest day recorded at this station in the 17 years during which records have been kept).

The total rainfall for the year was 4.58 inches *less* than that for 1937 and 0.73 inch *less* than the average for the past 17 years.

Sunshine (Hours)

Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1586.8 hours
Daily Mean	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.3 „
Sunless Days	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60 days
Sunniest month, April, with	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	226.5 hours
Sunniest day, June 21st, with	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14.4 hours

The total sunshine was 118.9 hours *more* than that for 1937, and 1.5 hours *more* than the average for the past 14 years.

I am indebted for the above report to Mr. H. McClelland, Meteorologist to Seale-Hayne College.

W. H. SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

